

THE CLAIMS

The claims of the application are amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A radiant electric heater (2) comprising: a base (8) of thermal and electrical insulation material having a surface supporting at least one electric heating element comprising at least one elongate electrically conductive ribbon (10), the at least one electrically conductive ribbon (10) being supported on edge; a rod-like temperature-responsive device (16) extending lengthwise partly across the heater (2) from an edge thereof and over the at least one electric heating element (10); the surface of the base (8) being provided with an elongate recess (22) with sloping sides (24, 26) extending beneath and along the length of the rod-like temperature-responsive device (16), characterised by wherein the elongate recess has a width which increases with increasing distance from the edge of the heater, and wherein the at least one electrically conductive ribbon (10) ~~being~~ is supported in and ~~traversing~~ traverses the elongate recess (22) such that an upper edge (28) of the at least one electrically conductive ribbon (10) substantially follows a contour of the surface of the recess and whereby the upper edge (28) of the at least one electrically conductive ribbon (10) at a region (30) underlying the rod-like temperature-responsive device (16) is provided at a predetermined distance from the rod-like temperature-responsive device (16) and is at a lower level relative to the upper edge (28) of the at least one electrically conductive ribbon (10) at regions (32, 34) at either side of the elongate recess (22) , the at least one electrically conductive ribbon (10) in

the regions (32, 34) at either side of the elongate recess (22) being provided on a substantially planar surface of the base.

2. (Previously Presented) A heater as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rod-like temperature-responsive device (16) comprises metal.

3. (Previously Presented) A heater as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rod-like temperature-responsive device (16) comprises a metal tube.

4. (Previously Presented) A heater as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rod-like temperature-responsive device (16) has a first end supported at an edge region of the heater (2) and a second end (18) substantially unsupported at an inner region of the heater (2).

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A heater as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elongate recess (22) has a depth which increases with increasing distance from the edge of the heater (2).

7. (Previously Presented) A heater as claimed in claim 6, wherein a substantially constant angle of the sloping sides (24, 26) of the elongate recess (22) is maintained as the depth of the elongate recess (22) increases with increasing distance from the edge of the heater (2).

8. (Previously Presented) A heater as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elongate recess (22) is of a form selected from substantially shell and scallop form.

9. (Previously Presented) A heater as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one electrically conductive ribbon (10) is of corrugated form.

10. (Presently Presented) A heater as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one electrically conductive ribbon (10) is provided with a plurality of spaced-apart legs (12), the legs (12) extending edgewise from the at least one electrically conductive ribbon (10) and being at least partially embedded in the surface of the base (8).

11. (Previously Presented) A heater as claimed in claim 10, wherein the legs (12) are integral with the at least one electrically conductive ribbon (10).

12. (Previously Presented) A heater as claimed in claim 10, wherein the legs (12) are secured to the at least one electrically conductive ribbon (10).

13. (Previously Presented) A heater as claimed in claim 10, wherein the legs (12) are partially embedded in the surface of the base (8) to substantially the same depth in the elongate recess (22) as elsewhere on the base (8).

14. (Previously Presented) A heater as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base (8) comprises microporous thermal and electrical insulation material.

15. (Previously Presented) A heater as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base (8) is provided in a dish-like support (6).

16. (Previously Presented) A heater as claimed in claim 15, wherein the dish-like support (6) is of metal.

17. (Previously Presented) A heater as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heater is adapted for location beneath a cooking surface (4).

18. (Previously Presented) A heater as claimed in claim 17, wherein the cooking surface (4) is of glass-ceramic material.